RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the 20th March, 2001/29 *Phalguna*, 1922 *(Saka)*

The House met at eleven of the clock,
MR. CHAIRMAN in the chair.

श्री राजू परमार: महोदय, देश की रक्षा का सवाल है ... (व्यवधान)

श्री नीलोत्पल बसु: महोदय: ...(व्यवधान)...

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Enhancement in import duty for protecting domestic industry

*341. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified any items for enhancing for import duty to thwart competition to domestic industry;

(b) if so, what are the items that have been identified by Government; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) Simultaneously with the phased removal of import restrictions, Government has been implementing a conscious policy of adjustments in customs duties to provide necessary protection to the domestic producers. Towards that end, customs duty on almost all the items on which QRs were to be removed was raised to the peak rate of 35% in the budget for the year 2000-2001. Subsequent to the budget, import duty on skimmed milk powder was raised from 0% to 60%, on chicken legs from 35% to 100%, on rice from 0% to 75%, on arecanut from 35% to 100% and on apple from 35% to 50%. Import duty on edible oil was raised twice, in June and again in November last year. In the budget for the year 2001-2002, the customs duty on coconut, copra, tea and coffee has been raised from 35% to 70%. The import duty on various refined edible oils excepting soyabean oil has been raised to 85%. Similarly, the import duty on various crude edible oils excepting soyabean oil has been raised to 75%, with a concession of 20% on the imports of crude palm oil made by sick Vanaspati Units. The imports are being closely monitored and Government will take all appropriate steps including increase in customs duty, within the bound rates, whenever the situation so arises.